

*Appreciation by Cllr. Linda Wade*

I first met Jennifer Ware, after an introduction by a long-term resident of Nevern Square, Cecilia Wright, who was a woman, with a Civil Service background, and short with her words said who described Jennifer before our first meeting:

“She’s very bright, I think that she went to St Paul’s. She’s very beautiful, and she knows absolutely everything that happens in Earl’s Court.”

She wasn’t wrong.

The list of the different committees and organisations that Jennifer was involved with were numerous and covered a wide range of interests, but central were two themes: the health, physical, mental and emotional, and welfare of residents and for Earl’s Court as a community.

A trustee of the Social Council (latterly Kensington and Chelsea Social Council), St Cuthbert’s Centre and a founder member of Response Community Projects, a founder committee member of Earl’s Court Square RA along with her husband David, as well as ECNA, Earl’s Court Community Trust and the Earl’s Court Society. In fact, anything with the prefix or suffix Earl’s Court, Jennifer was bound to be involved with at some level. importantly for many older residents, Jennifer was the mainstay in the organisation of the famous Strawberry Teas in Earl’s Court Square Gardens, an event very close to her heart.

Jennifer served on the Council’s Standards Committee for some years and recognised by the Baroness Hanham as being Mrs Earl’s Court and honoured by a Mayor’s Award in xxxx. So, whether it was the Tesco’s and Warwick Road developments, Earl’s Court/Courtfield/ Redcliffe Local Planning Forum, West London Traffic Reform, the Earl’s Court Study, or as an early Environmental Roundtable Group member, she was always there, providing her insight and experience.

Her knowledge of the Earl’s Court area was simply encyclopaedic and all embracing.

This is a woman who would firmly remind meetings that she could remember Earl’s Court before the Exhibition Centre was built, lived in the area throughout the war years, when her mother owned The White House Hotel in Earl’s Court Square, and got very upset when the apostrophe got left out of Earl’s Court.

Jennifer has been such a strong presence in Earl’s Court for so long that it is a hard to overestimate her influence as she was involved with so many aspects of local life. One of her many talents was being able to identify opportunities and by bringing different people

or organisations together to achieve an end whether it was with the use of St Cuthbert's Hall or Response Community Projects.

All of which sounds very worthy but only reflects one side of her life.

Apart from being a woman with a strong sense of purpose and commitment, she was a wife and a mother. She was intensely proud of all her family. Like her mother before her, Jennifer was redoubtable in facing adversity, and sadness with the loss of her daughter Annabel and her darling husband, David, and yet showed no reproach, no anger, no sentimentality and demonstrated that spirit of "getting on with it" and all done with immense charm.

19 Earl's Court Square was a social hub, and I hope that it continues to be so, with the Downton and the Poldark Evenings and the very jolly New Year Parties, and Jennifer's welcome was legendary and the gatherings eclectic.

Jennifer was blessed with the wonderful support of her family and in particular over the last weeks of her life. The flat in Earl's Court Square was as it has always been, an Open House, with people coming in and out, having a cup of tea, or a glass of wine, dropping in for a chat but she was enormously blessed with the fabulous care of Stephanie, Cilla and Jane, her daughters, who provided around the clock care for her over her last months, tending her with wonderful compassion and love.

Jennifer died as she would have wanted to, in her own home, in her own bed with the casual noises of normal domestic life around her, with friends, family and dogs, and drinking Negronis or Ginger Wine to the end.

She did not express any fear of death, she took it in her stride, and was even at the last, smiling, and thinking of others — she was simply quite remarkable a woman, an Earl's Court institution and will very much missed.